

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT
CONTINGENCY PLAN Q & A DOCUMENT
APRIL 8, 2011

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios. The following document provides information about BOEMRE's contingency plans in the event of a government shutdown.

Will drilling be allowed to continue in the Gulf of Mexico?

Yes. Drilling will continue in the Gulf of Mexico in the event of a government shutdown. BOEMRE will have personnel available to oversee the safety of ongoing operations.

Will production be allowed to continue in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific?

Yes. Ongoing production operations will be allowed to continue in the event of a government shutdown. BOEMRE will have personnel available to oversee production operations.

Will BOEMRE be able to respond if there is an accident?

Yes. BOEMRE will respond to accidents and does not anticipate any interruption in emergency services in the event of a government shutdown.

Will BOEMRE continue to review and approve drilling permits and exploration (and development) plans during the shutdown?

Yes. BOEMRE will continue to receive and process exploration and development plans, including conducting appropriate environmental analyses, as well as applications for drilling permits and other offshore permits. BOEMRE would also continue to work on current renewable energy plans and projects.

If drilling and production continue, will BOEMRE continue to inspect the facilities?

Yes, routine and emergency inspections will continue to be performed.

Will the shutdown delay the NEPA reviews being conducted for the remaining Gulf of Mexico lease sales under the 2007-2012 Program?

No. Environmental analysis needed to prepare on-going National Environmental Policy Act compliance documents will continue in the event of a government shutdown. These include the preparation of documents in support of the 5-year plan, Central Gulf Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Western Gulf SEIS, Chukchi SEIS, and other major federal actions.

Will the shutdown affect the NEPA review being conducted regarding Chukchi Sale 193?

No. BOEMRE plans to continue to work on NEPA documents including the NEPA review being conducted for Chukchi Sale 193.

Will the shutdown cause a delay, resulting in a gap between the end of the current Five Year Program and the beginning of the next Five Year Program?

BOEMRE plans to continue to work on the 5-year plan and at this time does not anticipate any change in its schedule as a result of a government shutdown.

How many BOEMRE employees will continue working during the shutdown?

Approximately 45-50% of the BOEMRE workforce will report for full-time duty in the event of a government shutdown. This includes approximately 558 people from throughout the organization.

How many BOEMRE employees will be furloughed during the shutdown? Over 600 BOEMRE employees will be furloughed in the event of a government shutdown.

Will states and counties be able to continue to draw CIAP funds during the shutdown?

The CIAP program will continue to operate and states and counties will continue to receive funds in the event of a government shutdown.

Will BOEMRE continue to review CIAP grants during the shutdown?

Yes. The CIAP program will continue to review and process grants in the event of a government shutdown.

Will the Joint Investigation Team continue its work on the Deepwater Horizon investigation and its evaluation of the blowout preventer?

Yes. The Deepwater Horizon investigation, including evaluation of the blowout preventer, will continue in the event of a government shutdown.

Will BOEMRE continue to work on renewable energy activities off shore the Atlantic coast?

Yes. BOEMRE will continue to process applications and plans for specific projects received before the shutdown and will continue to work on the Environmental Assessment for the Mid-Atlantic Wind Energy Areas.

How will BOEMRE fund personnel costs / operations that continue during the shutdown?

A substantial portion of BOEMRE's funding is not related to the continuing resolution. These funds are derived from non-appropriated sources such as rentals and inspection fees. There are sufficient remaining funds available from these non-appropriated sources to fund BOEMRE's major on-going activities during a government shutdown.